



LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1953





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1953

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN:

Mrs. D. Dillamore, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

W. E. Durrell, Esq.

COUNCILLORS:

H. W. Costiff, Esq.
Mrs. D. Dillamore
F. G. Dillamore, Esq.
Mrs. M. B. Heady
E. Miles, Esq.
J. J. E. Pilson, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Dr. D.H. Waldron, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.,
D.T.M. & H., Col. I.A.M.C. (Retd.)

SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR:

Leonard W. Eves, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Council Offices,
6, Leighton Road,
LINSLADE.

18th May, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Urban District Council of Linslade

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health for the year 1953.

The Birth Rate shows a drop from the previous year but
still compares favourably with that for the rest of the County.

The Death Rate shows a satisfactory drop and is now well
below that for England and Wales although still slightly higher
than that for the rest of the County. There were actually 34
deaths of which 19 were due to Heart and allied diseases and 9
from Cancer.

The Infantile Mortality Rate presents the gratifying figure
of Nil. This is most satisfactory in view of the County Rate of
20.0 and the Rate of 26.8 for England and Wales.

In the realm of Infectious Disease there was a decrease in
the notifications of Measles but rises in those for Scarlet Fever,
Whooping Cough and Pneumonia. The Scarlet Fever occurred
generally throughout the year, whereas the majority of Whooping
Cough cases were in the third quarter.

I should like to record another happy year of co-operation
with your Clerk, Mr. P.J. Uphill, and your Surveyor and Sanitary
Inspector, Mr. L.W.Eves.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

D. H. WALDRON

LINSLADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1953

(A) VITAL STATISTICS

1. GENERAL		1952	1953
Area in acres	.. .. .	1,693	1,693
Population	.. .. .	3,365	3,359
Number of Inhabited Houses	.. .. .	1,056	1,067
Rateable Value	.. .. .	£20,123	£20,467
Rate in the £	.. .. .	26/-	27/-
Sum represented by a penny rate	.. .. .	£79	£82
2. BIRTHS			
Legitimate (male)	.. .. .	30	21
" (female)	.. .. .	27	26
Illegitimate	.. .. .	Nil	Nil
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	.. .. .	16.9	14.0
" " " " " (Bucks)		15.2	14.9
" " " " " (England & Wales)		15.3	15.5
3. DEATHS			
Males	.. .. .	14	16
Females	.. .. .	27	18
Death Rate per 1,000 population	.. .. .	12.2	10.1
" " " " " (Bucks)		9.9	9.7
" " " " " (England & Wales)		11.3	11.4
Still Births	.. .. .	Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate	.. .. .	Nil	Nil
" " " (Bucks)	.. .. .	0.66	0.33
" " " (England & Wales)		0.72	0.76

4. PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

						<u>1952</u>			<u>1953</u>		
						M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	0	2	2	4	5	9
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haemorrhage into Nervous System	..	..				4	5	9	1	5	6
Heart Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	7	13	20	7	6	13
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchitis & other Respiratory Diseases						2	0	2	3	0	3
Digestive Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	0	1	1	0	0	0
Suicide & Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	0	1	1	0	0	0
All other causes	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	6	1	2	3
Totals						<u>14</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>34</u>

5. INFANTILE MORTALITY

										<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
Deaths of Infants under 1yr.	per	1,000	births							35.1	Nil
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	(Bucks)	25.0	20.0
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	(England & Wales)	27.6	26.8
Deaths from Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
"	"	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
"	"	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..						..	Nil	Nil

(B) GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens for pathological investigation were sent, as in previous years, to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Luton. This arrangement has worked very satisfactorily.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

These services were taken over by the County Council from 6th July, 1948. For general cases, accidents and infectious disease, three motor ambulances and one car for sitting cases are maintained in the district.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME

This, as also her maternity duties, was carried out by the District Nurse in her usual efficient manner.

4. CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

A centre at The Forster Institute has held regular sessions on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. A Medical Officer attends once a month, and the District Nurse and Health Visitor each session.

5. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals have received cases from the area:-

Luton and Dunstable
Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury
Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury
Spittlesea Hospital, Luton
Isolation Hospital, Aylesbury

(C) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

Consumption during the year was 42,873,000 gallons. Boreholes Nos. one and two continued to yield satisfactorily. A further borehole was sunk during the year and was found on test pumping to be capable of yielding 15,000 gallons per hour. It could not be brought into use as the new pumping main had not been laid.

Of samples submitted for bacteriological examination, 9 taken from the reservoir were highly satisfactory, 8 taken from various points on the distribution system were highly satisfactory and one not up to standard. In the case of the unsatisfactory result a repeat sample from the same premises was highly satisfactory.

Chemical examination of a sample taken on the 2nd September, 1953 was reported upon as follows:-

Chemical Results in Parts per Million								
Appearance	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bright with a few mineral particles
Turbidity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Less than 3
Colour	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Odour	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
pH	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.2
Free Carbon Dioxide	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Electric Conductivity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	675
Total Solids	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	450
Chlorine present as Chloride	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	220
Hardness: Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	350
Carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	220
Non-Carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
Nitrate Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.0
Nitrite Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.030
Oxygen Absorbed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.15
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.012
Residual Chlorine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Absent
Metals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Iron less than 0.01 Other metals Absent

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome character and suitability for public supply purposes apart from the objection that the water tends to be very hard".

1064 houses were supplied with water direct from the public mains and nine by means of standpipes. It is estimated that 99.96% of the population of the district receive water from the public supply.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

A report on the possibility of a combined sewerage disposal works for Linslade and Leighton Buzzard was in course of preparation at the end of the year by the Consulting Engineers. There was a marked improvement in the purity of the effluent, confirmed by sampling.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The weekly house and trade refuse collection was carried out very satisfactorily.

We continued to use the Leighton Buzzard Refuse Tip on an agreed financial basis.

4. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Periodic inspection of the canal, rivers and streams within the Urban District did not reveal any serious pollution.

5. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no swimming baths or pools suitable for bathing within the Urban District.

6. PUBLIC MORTUARY

The mortuary, which is the joint responsibility of this authority and the Wing Rural District Council, was used three times during the year.

(D) H O U S I N G

No new Council dwellings were occupied during the year, but the eight additional flats on the Soulbury Road Housing Site were nearly ready after delays caused by the bankruptcy of the original contractors.

Fourteen houses on the Mentmore Road Housing Site were commenced towards the end of the year.

Eleven houses were completed by private enterprise during the year.

One hundred and fifty-eight Council houses and fifty-two private enterprise houses have been built in Linslade since the war.

Twelve informal notices were served for the execution of housing repairs.

One dwelling house was demolished as the result of informal action.

(E) N U I S A N C E S , C O N T R A V E N T I O N O F B Y E L A W S , E T C .

1. GENERAL

Complaints of nuisance were dealt with by informal action. Eight notices were served during the year, and one Statutory Notice.

2. FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Informal action was necessary in two cases during the year regarding unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation. Form 572 has been completed.

3. MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1926-1948

The dairies within the Urban District were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

4. ICE CREAM

Regular inspections of retail premises were made.

Of the 27 samples taken, 13 were in Grade 1, 12 were in Grade 2, and 2 were in Grade 3.

As regards the Grade 3 samples, action was taken to effect an improvement.

5. SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no slaughterhouses in use within the district.

6. UNSOUND FOOD

Condemnation certificates were issued in respect of food found to be unfit for human consumption, as follows:-

3 tins of meat	3 tins of fruit
1 " " vegetables	2½ lbs. cheese

7. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Regular inspections for the destruction of rats and mice were undertaken by the Council's Rodent Operator, whose services are shared with Leighton Buzzard U.D.C.

Destruction work was carried out as follows:-

Dwelling houses	.. ..	68
Business premises	.. ..	8
Refuse Tip (disused)	.. ..	1

Sewer inspections were made, and test baiting and maintenance treatment carried out as required by the Ministry of Food.

(F) PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. GENERAL

Notifications of Measles showed a drop compared with the previous year. Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Pneumonia showed rises.

2. NUMBER OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

						1952	1953
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	3	20
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	45	24
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	4	21
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	11	20
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	3	Nil
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	1	Nil

3. CANCER

There were 9 deaths during the year compared with 2 in 1952 and 6 in 1951.

4. TUBERCULOSIS

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year. One case was notified. This was Non-Pulmonary.

D. H. WALDRON

Medical Officer of Health

